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AFP REPORTS ON MOZAMBIQUE SITUATION
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PARIS AFP IN ENGLISH 1255 GMT 19 DEC 75 PA

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((TEXT)) LOURENCO MARQUES, DEC 19 - (AFP)-- TROOPS LOYAL TO MOZAMBIQUE'S PRESIDENT SAMORA MACHEL ARE MOPPING UP REMAINING POCKETS OF RESISTANCE BY REBEL TROOPS WHO TRIED TO SEIZE CONTROL OF THE CAPITAL, THE NATIONAL RADIO ANNOUNCED TODAY.

HOWEVER, THE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS IDENTICAL WITH ONE MADE BY RADIO MOZAMBIQUE YESTERDAY MORNING THAT WAS FOLLOWED BY REPORTS OF SHOOTING ERUPTING AGAIN LAST NIGHT.

OBSERVERS SAID THERE WERE SIGNS NEVERTHELESS THAT LOYALIST FRELIMO (MOZAMBIQUE LIBERATION FRONT) FORCES WERE REGAINING CONTROL FOLLOWING AN UPRISING BY AN ESTIMATED 400 FOUR HUNDRED TROOPS AND POLICE THAT HAS BROUGHT TWO DAYS OF BLOODY CLASHES TO LOURENCO MARQUES STREETS ONLY SIX 6 MONTHS AFTER INDEPENDENCE.

ACCORDING TO THE OFFICIAL STATEMENT READ ON THE RADIO, MOST OF THE REACTIONARIES INVOLVED IN THE REBELLION HAVE BEEN DISARMED AND CAPTURED SINCE THURSDAY.

HOWEVER, THE AUTHORITIES WERE CONTINUING MOPPING-UP OPERATIONS IN THE CITY AND SUBURBS, IT SAID.

TODAY'S RADIO PROGRAMMES WERE NORMAL, INDICATING THAT AT LEAST THE CITY CENTRE WAS CALM.

ACCORDING TO REPORTS IN JOHANNESBURG LAST NIGHT, THE REBELS TRIED TO SEIZE KEY POINTS IN THE CENTRE, INCLUDING THE RADIO STUDIOS AND CITY HALL.

ONE SOUTH AFRICAN PAPER, BEELD, WROTE TODAY THAT A PURGE OF TOP FRELIMO AND ARMY CADRES ORDERED BY MR MACHEL ON DEC 13 THIRTEEN HAD LED TO THE UNCOVERING OF A PLOT AGAINST HIM HEADED BY JOAQUIM CHISSANO, FORMER PRIME MINISTER IN THE TRANSITIONAL PRE-INDEPENDENCE GOVERNMENT WHICH RULED MOZAMBIQUE BETWEEN SEPT 1974 SEVEN FOUR AND INDEPENDENCE ON JUNE 25 TWENTYFIVE. MR CHISSANO IS NOW FOREIGN MINISTER.

COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN LOURENCO MARQUES AND SOUTH AFRICA HAVE BEEN CUT ALMOST COMPLETELY SINCE WEDNESDAY NIGHT, WITH THE AIRPORT CLOSED TO REGULAR TRAFFIC AND SEVERE PLANES REPORTED STRANDED IN NEIGHBOURING RHODESIA AND SOUTH AFRICA.

UNCONFIRMED REPORTS ON SOUTH ((WORD INDISTINCT)) RADIO SAID EYEWITNESSES HAD BEEN HELICOPTERS MANOEUVERING AT LOURENCO MARQUES AIRPORT. A SCHEDULED ADDRESS TO THE NATION BY PRESIDENT MACHEL LAST NIGHT DID NOT TAKE PLACE.

THERE WAS NO INDICATION AS TO WHETHER THE TROUBLE WAS CONFINED TO THE CAPITAL OR HAD SPREAD TO OTHER AREAS. 191255
HALPERN/LAC 19/1330Z DEC

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Approved For Release 1999/09/25 : CIA-RDP85T00875R000300080002-5